

HOYER-GREENWOOD BILL RE-
STRICTING LATE-TERM ABOR-
TIONS

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, abortion is one of the most difficult and divisive issues facing the public today. Like most Americans, I would prefer that there were no abortions. Also, like most Americans, I believe the decision is one that is for the woman and family involved, not the Government.

However, I oppose late-term abortions, except for the most serious and compelling of reasons. I am specifically and adamantly opposed to what some refer to as "abortion-on-demand"—after the time of viability. For that reason, I and others have introduced the "Late Term Abortion Restriction Act of 1999."

The specific intent of this legislation is to adopt as Federal policy, a prohibition on post-viability, late-term abortions. Critics of this legislation point out that there are exceptions. They are correct. We believe that in the event that the mother's life is in danger or where the continuation of the pregnancy will pose a threat of serious, adverse health consequences to the woman, then and only then can this prohibition on late-term abortions be overcome.

I introduced this legislation in both the 104th and the 105th Congress. I did so then because I am opposed to abortions being performed after the viability of a fetus, except for the most serious of health risks if the pregnancy is continued.

This prohibition is similar to restrictions on late-term abortions in 41 of our States, including my own State of Maryland. Those States believed that it was appropriate policy to prohibit late-term abortions "on demand." We share that view.

Those who oppose abortion under almost all circumstances at any time during the course of pregnancy have criticized this legislation as meaningless. They do so because they believe that some doctors will contrive reasons to justify a late-term abortion. I do not doubt that may happen. But if it does, it will be illegal under this act and subject the doctor to the penalties set forth in the bill and to such professional sanctions as are imposed by the appropriate medical societies and regulatory bodies.

This legislation is much broader than the partial-birth abortion bills introduced by others in the 104th and 105th Congress. Those bills and the Partial Birth Abortion Act of 1999 recently introduced in the Senate had and continue to have at their purpose, the elimination of a particular procedure to effect an abortion at any time during the course of the pregnancy.

To that extent it is inaccurate and misleading to define it as many proponents and press reports have, as a prohibition on late-term abortions. It is both much narrower and, at the same time, broader than that. It is my belief that its terms would not prohibit the performance of a single abortion. They would simply be performed by a different procedure.

Congressman JIM GREENWOOD and I are introducing this legislation today with 14 other bipartisan original cosponsors. This bill, in

contrast to the partial birth abortion bills, would prohibit all late-term post-viability abortions by whatever method or procedure that would be employed. While there are exceptions to this general prohibition, we believe that our bill will, in fact, prohibit all post-viability, late-term abortions that are not the result of a serious cause.

This legislation establishes a clear Federal policy against late-term abortions. We would hope that the Judiciary Committee would hold an early hearing on this legislation and bring it to the floor so that the Federal Government could adopt this sensible prohibition, which is similar to that adopted by over 80 percent of the States. They did so because their legislatures wanted to make it clear that late-term abortions were, in almost all circumstances, against public policy and against the law.

We should do the same.

IN HONOR OF FATHER McNULTY'S
25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINA-
TION

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Father McNulty's 25th Anniversary of his Ordination as a Priest.

Father McNulty was born in October of 1948. He attended Borromeo High School, Borromeo College, Wickliffe and St. Mary's Seminary. Throughout the last 25 years Father McNulty has dedicated himself to helping others in his community. He has been involved in a number of different assignments in the greater Cleveland area. He is currently the pastor at SS. Philip and James in Cleveland as well as the Chaplain for the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and is the Deputy National Chaplain for the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians.

His work has proven time and time again to be a tremendous help to the community and is a very well known and respected priest in the Cleveland area. Through his dedicated efforts the community has grown together. His work should be recognized as having a very influential and positive effect on the people in the greater Cleveland area.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Father McNulty's 25 years of service to the greater Cleveland community.

WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to pay tribute to a recipient of the distinguished 1998–1999 White House Fellowship Program—Lieutenant Commander Mark Montgomery of Sunapee, New Hampshire.

Established in 1965, the White House Fellowship program honors outstanding citizens across the United States who demonstrate excellence in academics, public service, and leadership. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership

development. Each year, there are 500–800 applicants nationwide for 11 to 19 fellowships. Past distinguished U.S. Navy White House Fellow alumni have gone on to become exceptional military leaders and I have no doubt Commander Montgomery will be successful in his future endeavors.

This award is well-earned by an individual who carries himself with great professionalism and distinction in the finest traditions of our country's military history. Lieutenant Commander Montgomery was most recently Executive Officer of the destroyer U.S.S. *Elliot*. He was one of only a handful of liberal arts majors to complete the naval nuclear power program. Lieutenant Commander Montgomery has completed two overseas deployments on the nuclear powered cruiser U.S.S. *Bainbridge*. He also led a team of thirty *Bainbridge* sailors to provide disaster relief on the island of St. Croix after Hurricane Hugo. He later was assigned as Operations Officer of U.S.S. *Leftwich* and then to the reactor department of the U.S.S. *Theodore Roosevelt*, where he was deployed to Bosnia during air strikes. Commander Montgomery will be Commissioning Commanding Officer of U.S.S. *McCampbell*. In addition to his military service, Commander Montgomery is involved with the Big Brother organization.

Commander Montgomery's distinguished military career made him a perfect candidate for his current White House Fellowship assignment with the National Security Council. In this capacity, he manages the operation for the Critical Infrastructure Coordination Group, which is responsible for implementing presidential decision directives on critical national infrastructures. He also coordinates the inter-agency development of a National Infrastructure Assurance Plan, which formulates the Administration's efforts to protect our government and private sector infrastructures from terrorist attack. Commander Montgomery was a member of the U.S. delegation that traveled to the United Arab Emirates on a mission regarding security cooperation. Other responsibilities include working on the Counter-Terrorism Security Group and coordinating NSC policy on international Y2K issues.

The people of this nation can feel secure in the knowledge that individuals like Commander Montgomery are working for them. For his efforts, and in recognition of the well-deserved honor of serving as a White House Fellow, I am privileged to commend and pay tribute to Commander Montgomery.

HOSPITAL ACCREDITATION

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 10, 1999

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, Healthcare facilities must comply with certain conditions in order to participate in the Medicare program. The Health Care Financing Administration relies on accrediting organizations to certify that healthcare facilities provide quality services to Medicare beneficiaries. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO) is one such organization. A facility that receives JCAHO accreditation automatically meets the Medicare Conditions of Participation.